

SITUATION REPORT NO. 10
INCIDENT NO. 2002-040
DATE: July 2, 2002 TIME: 3:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** Drought/Fires – The Governor issued a state fire emergency declaration on May 30, 2002, and a state drought emergency declaration on July 1, 2002.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** Emmons County officials reported on July 2 that seven firefighters were taken to a local hospital for heat exhaustion.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has received reports of two fatalities, one of which occurred on May 2 and the other on May 26. Nine injuries also were reported to the State EOC.

3. **DAMAGES:** The N.D. Rangeland Fire Danger Index placed 17 southwestern, south central and southeastern counties in the very high category on July 2, 2002. They include: Slope, Bowman, Hettinger, Grant, Oliver, Morton, Burleigh, Grant, Emmons, Sioux, Kidder, Logan, LaMoure, McIntosh, Dickey, Ransom and Sargent.

Temperatures in excess of 100 degrees and very little precipitation stressed crops and reduced soil moisture supplies statewide, the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service reported on July 1. The percent of soil moisture in four categories is as follows:

	<u>Very Short</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
TOPSOIL				
This Week	20	25	49	6
Last Week	10	18	61	11
SUBSOIL				
This Week	16	24	53	7
Last Week	6	22	64	8

According to fire officials, lightning caused two fires in McIntosh County on June 29. A fire in the Danzig area burned approximately 320 acres of crop and grassland, a few buildings, equipment and large hay bales. The Ashley and Wishek Fire Departments responded. Another fire occurred the south of the Ashley airport. The Ashley Fire Department quickly contained the one-acre blaze.

Firefighting officials have now estimated approximately 12,300 acres burned during fires on June 28-30 in Grant and Sioux Counties and the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

Emmons County officials have reported 2,000 acres of pasture and prairie were destroyed and five fire trucks and equipment were damaged during the June 28-30 weekend/

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: American Red Cross volunteers and staff were meeting July 2 with fire victims to assess needs and open assistance cases.

In Emmons County, farmers and commercial sprayers loaned use of their water trucks and tanks to firefighters.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On July 2, Governor John Hoeven was notified in writing that the following counties have been approved for haying of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage: Adams, Bowman, Emmons, Grant, Hettinger, Logan, McIntosh, Sioux, Kidder, Morton, Dickey, Barnes and Ransom. Additionally, the Governor expects written approval for Burleigh, LaMoure and Stutsman Counties. Governor Hoeven had contacted the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's Office on July 1 to request CRP land be opened and approval of Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funds to help ranchers secure feed and water for cattle and other livestock.

State resources will remain staged in strategic locations in southwest and south central North Dakota through the July 4th holiday weekend.

The Emmons County Commission passed a resolution July 2 prohibiting fireworks and open burning until further notice.

The Barnes County Commission issued a drought emergency declaration July 2.

The Dickey County Commission issued a drought emergency declaration July 1.

On July 1, the N.D. Attorney General's Office issued guidance regarding fireworks and fire penalties to state's attorneys, sheriffs, city attorneys and police chief.

The NWS, in cooperation with the N.D. Division of Emergency Management, has adjusted its N.D. Rangeland Fire Danger Index to include outdoor activity guidelines designed to reduce the risk of rural fire occurrence.

The State Fire Marshal's Office, in cooperation with the North Dakota Aeronautics Commissioner, has disseminated information to 380 fire departments reminding them that aerial applicators are available to assist with initial fire attack. Deputies also provided information related to obtaining aerial applicator fire suppression assistance.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management has provided county and tribal emergency managers with talking points related to fire and drought conditions.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state, local, tribal, federal and private entity emergency operations plans (EOPs) and procedures have been implemented.

The N.D. Rural Fire Mitigation Guide and the N.D. Rangeland Fire Danger Index are posted on the N.D. Division of Emergency Management web site at:

<http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>.

Situation Reports published by N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is:

<http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director